

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /057 W

-----251742Z 041671 /56

P 251730Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8561

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

DA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, PO, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: TANKS FOR PORTUGAL

REF: SECDEF 3105 DTG 242342Z MAY 77

1. LT. COL. VON GRAEVENITZ, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AID PROGRAM IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD AGREED WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN THAT THE FRG WOULD PROVIDE THE U.S. WITH EIGHTEEN REPEAT EIGHTEEN M48A2 TANKS AND PAY FOR THEIR UPGRADING TO M48A5 LEVEL AS PART OF ITS PORTUGUESE MILITARY AID PACKAGE. IN RETURN THE U.S. AGREED TO PROVIDE EIGHTEEN M48A5 TANKS FROM THE TOP OF ITS ANNISTON LINE SO THAT PORTUGAL COULD GET THE TANKS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

2. EMBASSY BONN COMPLETELY AGREES THAT THE ACTION
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SUGGESTED IN PARA ONE OF REFTEL CORRESPONDS WITH FRG DESIRES. IN ANSWER TO EMBOFF'S QUERY, VON GRAEVENITZ SAID THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD NOT AS YET NOTIFIED ITS PLANS TO THE THREE BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD ONLY PROVIDED FIRM COST FIGURES FOR THE UPGRADING ON MAY 20. HE EXPECTED THESE THREE COMMITTEES (DEFENSE, FOREIGN

AFFAIRS AND BUDGET) TO BE NOTIFIED VERY SOON AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD GIVE THEIR APPROVAL BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS JUNE 27. VON GRAEVENITZ ADDED THAT THE DM 25 MILLION ORIGINALLY EARMARKED FOR THE PROGRAM PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH AND THAT ANOTHER SEVEN TO TEN MILLION DM'S WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDED TO IT. HE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD POSE A MAJOR PROBLEM.

3. THE ORIGINAL TEXTS OF FRG REQUESTS FOR LOA'S FOR RETROFIT OF THE EIGHTEEN TANKS AND AGREEMENT TO PAY FOR SUCH RETROFIT WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE US A FIRM DATE (HAVING ONLY RECEIVED THE REQUIRED DATA LAST FRIDAY) BUT WE KNOW THAT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES ARE FOCUSING ON THE REQUIREMENT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), MILITARY SALES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN08969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770187-0121
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770521/aaaaarts.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f838d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2382910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TANKS FOR PORTUGAL
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, PO, GE, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f838d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009